3: Hiscocks G-4, 5 (1946-1949) 1953 EK1 Austria EK1

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Austrian cultural and intellectual life suffered great damage during the seven years of Hitler's occupation. The Nazi régime in Austria, as in Germany, was accompanied by systematic vandalism. Books were destroyed, teachers regimented, and intellectual effort discouraged amongst students. Certain kinds of art and music were banned, either owing to the race or nationality of the artist or composer, or because the style was classified as decadent. Musicians, authors, artists, and scholars were driven into exile owing to their race or political opinions. And finally the destructive process was completed during the last year of the War by bombs and gunfire. In addition to St. Stephen's Cathedral and the Burgtheater, the Vienna State Opera was almost completely destroyed. Schönbrunn, the Belvedere, the Albertina, the Schwarzenberg Palace, and the Museum of Art History were all damaged in varying degrees. A bomb fell through the dome of Salzburg Cathedral.

Furthermore, so cosmopolitan and receptive a people as the Austrians suffered severely from the intellectual isolation that the occupation and the War brought with them. Engaged in a struggle in which most of them did not believe, for the sake of a creed that most of them despised, the Austrian people were victims of cultural claustrophobia. In spite of the severe penalties for doing so, many of them listened regularly to foreign broadcasts throughout the War, and when the B.B.C. broadcasters in German visited Austria afterwards they were received like popular heroes.

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The Allied occupation helped to bring an end to the isolation in several ways. The presence of foreign troops contributed to this result, as the majority of soldiers from the West soon showed themselves to be friendly disposed towards Austria. The four occupying Powers also maintained efficient Information Services with the dual purpose of counteracting the effects of Nazi indoctrination and providing news and information about themselves and their ways of life. Each Power published a daily German newspaper in Vienna, ran a broadcasting service of its own, and set up libraries and reading-rooms in Vienna and its own zone.